From: kevin@shark.dls.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/12/01 12:16pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Dept. of Justice:

I am providing a brief opinion on the proposed Microsoft settlement.

I am currently working as a computational researcher in a pharmaceutical company. I am 37 years of age and have a Ph.D. level education.

Microsoft's proposed settlement is simply mind-boggling. It will serve as nothing more than a fantastic advertising opportunity for Microsoft, giving them a foothold into the education market from which they will later extract support and upgrade fees, which all the time offering the students only a single alternative to operating systems: WINDOWS.

The technology behind Windows is stagnant and highly proprietary. Instead of progressing through improvements and working with other developers to adopt and maintain standards for sharing information, Microsoft stifles all efforts to do so. Their browser (Internet Explorer) embeds code from Microsoft Office (namely Excel and Powerpoint), and does not abide by WW3 standards. Their J++ perversion of the open-source Java language will read Java, but not write code that can be read as standard Java (again, locking you into Microsoft products). Sun offered a portable, shared, open-source product, and Microsoft corrupted it into a proprietary, non-standard, non-portable code.

To offer Microsoft the opportunity to essentially adverstise within schools with software and operating systems is unacceptable. Given the opportunity to CHOOSE among operating systems and evaluate alternatives, any intelligent, innovative student would easily see the limitations of Microsoft's proprietary old-time technology and adopt a more progressive, innovative, open-source platform such as RedHat Linux (or any Linux operating system) immediately. These systems provide superior selections of software INCLUDED with their distributions (not extra charge for every program, compiler, etc. as from Microsoft). They are free of charge.

What better way to educate our children, with unlimited use of the RedHat Linux operating system across ALL their computers, with no upgrade charges ever. The software and operating system can be downloaded for free. The decision here is easy.

Please don't perpetuate Microsoft's monopolistic infection into our children's schools. Give them a choice, and they will choose the (1) superior, (2) standardized, (3) FREE operating system RedHat Linux (or any other Linux vendor).

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